(d) It is not possible to compile State-wise break up of advertising agencies in the agencies are registered on all-India basis.

Reduction in Custom duty on import of Aluminium Scrap

2623. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reduced custom duty on import of aluminium ingots and scrap to overcome the existing shortage of the metal in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that 15,000 tonnes aluminium metal from Government have decided to export NALCO inspite of prevailing shortage: and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). With the sequential energisation of pots by NALCO, their production of aluminium metal is gradually increasing. During 1988-89 indigenous production of primary aluminium is expected to match the estimated demand. However, with a view to cater to any fluctuations in demand, aluminium including aluminium rods were placed under Open General Licence (OGL) in July 1988 with marginal level of customs duty of only Rs. 500 per tonne. The customs duty on import of aluminium scrap, already on OGL, has also been reduced from 95 per cent *ad valorem* to 35 per cent *ad valorem.*

As the monthly production of NALCO is picking up and has increased from the level of 5268 tonnes in June, 1983 to about 6313 tonnes in October, 1988, NALCO has been authorised to export 15,000 tonnes of high grade aluminium metal during the current year.

Import of Aluminium ingots under open general licence policy

2624. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have put the import of aluminium ingots under Open General Licence Policy in view of acute shortage of metal faced by the industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the shortage is still continuing and Government have received representation for decontrol of the prices of aluminium metal; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking or propose to take to decontrol the prices of aluminium to ease the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) During 1988-89, the indigenous production of primary aluminium is expected to match the estimated demand. However, with a view to cater to any fluctuations in demand, Aluminium including Aluminium rods were placed under Open General Lincence (OGL) in July, 1988.

Sections of the Industry have been representing in favour of and against decontrol of aluminium for sometime now. When Natonal Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) goes into full production, further improvement in the availability of aluminium is anticipated. Various policy options including decontrol of aluminium are always kept in view for consideraton at the opportune time.

Use of Thin Walled Quick Coupling Steel Pipes for drinking water

2625. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Thin Walled Quick Coupling Steel Pipes conforming to IS-11722-1986 are injurious to health when used for purposes of drinking